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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A novelty or entertainment device comprising:
a housing in the form of a sea shell;
a sound reproduction system mounted to said housing so as to remain hidden
from casual visual inspection of said housing; and
a switch mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said sound
reproduction system for activating same in response to a lifting of said housing to an ear
of a user.
2. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said switch is a gravity switch.
3. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said switch is connected to a proximity
detector for sensing nearness of a surface to a mouth of said housing.
4. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said sea shell is in the form of a conch
shell.
5. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said sound reproduction system
includes a solid-state memory, a power source, and an electroacoustic transducer.
6. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said sound reproduction system
includes a memory storing a plurality of different sound bites and means for accessing
different ones of said sound bites on successive activations of said sound reproduction

system by said switch.

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7. A novelty or entertainment method comprising:
providing a housing in the form of a sea shell; and
in response to a removal of said housing from a stationary storage position
towards an ear of a user, reproducing a predetermined sound so that the reproduced
sound may be perceived by the user.

8. The method defined in claim 7 wherein the sound includes a verbal message.

9. The method defined in claim 7, further comprising automatically sensing a
movement of said housing, the reproducing of said sound being induced upon the
sensing of said movement.

*and
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